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LETTER DATED 27 FEBRUARY 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement issued in Havana by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba concerning the situation in the Arabian-Persian Gulf.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this statement to be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo ALARCON DE QUESADA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA ON THE SITUATION IN THE ARABIAN-PERSIAN GULF

After 37 days of savage air strikes against Iraq and Kuwait, the coalition of forces assembled from the war machine of the United States and its allies has initiated the ground offensive in Kuwait and parts of Iraq. As a result, the crisis in the Arabian-Persian Gulf is entering an increasingly tragic and bloody phase, with incalculable consequences for the fate of the region and international security.

Since 2 August 1990, the Government of Cuba, in addition to condemning the unacceptable invasion and annexation of Kuwait by Iraq and calling for the re-establishment of the sovereignty of that emirate, has been warning of the danger that the United States might take advantage of the occupation of Kuwait to achieve its ambition of destroying Iraq and solidifying its hegemonic presence in that strategic region.

An assessment of the events that have taken place since 16 January, after the Security Council, to the astonishment of the world, gave the United States a free hand to unleash a war of destruction that served its geopolitical interests, convincingly demonstrates the correctness and accuracy of Cuba's position and the warning it has been sounding.

Far from fulfilling the purposes for which it was created, the most important of which is the maintenance of peace, the Security Council has, by means of resolution 678 (1990), helped to thwart efforts to promote a just and peaceful settlement. With a zeal that it has not shown in the face of Israeli expansionism or the Yankee invasions of Grenada and Panama, the Council allowed the United States and its allies to turn Iraq and Kuwait into a testing ground for their most up-to-date weaponry, the use of which has already taken thousands of victims from among the civilian population and caused damage of unimaginable proportions to the economic and social infrastructure of both countries.

When Iraq announced its acceptance of the peace plan proposed by the USSR and its readiness to withdraw immediately and unconditionally from Kuwait in compliance with resolution 660 (1990), the opportunity was created for the crisis to enter a process that could lead to a definite solution. The reality that we are witnessing today has been dictated by Washington and the United States is seeking to impose its conditions. The United States is directing the war, deciding when and how it will end. All this from the country which scorns every peace initiative, which once again presumes to dictate standards to the international community.

What we are now witnessing is the first, bloody example of the unipolar world which the United States dreams of creating, the "new order" announced by President Bush as the future awaited by mankind.

The State which proclaims that it is destined by providence to establish and rule over this order has, by all appearances, the physical might to try to do it, but it is totally without any moral standing and historical authority. Its expansionist, interventionist and exploitative history would fill volumes. It is the very Power which had no scruples about using the atom bomb against a Japan that had already been defeated, the very Power which sowed death in Viet Nam, which subjected Nicaragua to a cruel and dirty war, and which continues to occupy Panama.

What is going on today in the Gulf is a vivid example of what could happen tomorrow anywhere in the world any time the United States should take on the role of supreme arbiter of peace and justice and decide with utter impunity how and where to act and what is right or wrong. Cuba calls upon the United Nations and the Security Council in particular to fulfil the function for which they were created and to make a genuine contribution to the maintenance of peace.

The war must be ended and there must be an end to the death of the thousands of men, women and children whose lives will be sacrificed for no other reason than the hegemonic interests of the United States.